What is a Christian?

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

Acts 11:26 And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

INTRO. After the stoning of Steven the discáples were scattered by persecution, but everywhere they went they kept telling about Christ. The great work at Antioch, many added to the followers of Jesus. Here they were given the nickname of Christian. Text read.

Is is interesting to note how Jesus secured his fir disciples- he simply suggested to afew of his friends that that they go on a journey with him. "Come and follow me" As tho I should propose that we go together on a camping trip to Yosemite, or some other place.

Even after Christ arose from the dead and ascended into heaven his disciples kept going with Jesus on their journey thru life. Xn living to them was a great adventure. - Xmas Life's greatest adventure

In the days of these early disciples there were no organized churches such as we have today. There were no formal creeds or any 39 articles of belief. There was'n even a New Testament, for it had not yet been fully writte nor any of it gathered together. The faith of these eary disciples was a faith in Jesus Christ himself and in what Jesus stood for. It was a vital and dynamic faith.

I. A christian, then is one who begins a certain wanderful way of living his own life, taking for his companion and guide Jesus Christ.

1. The first adventure which the follower of Jesus make is into the heart of God where he sees the creative Mind and Energy at work towards bringing about a certain definite goal of achievement- a race of men, honest, earnest and friendly and powerful, working together with God to carry Life forward everywhere in the univrse.

The goal of God is a happly family of humans on this earth who show good-will to one another, who love, care for and serve one another, who work with God their Heavenly Father to give to each and all the fullest expression of the richest life possible.

The goal of God is to conguer humanity for godly living- living in love, peace and harmony withGod and with one another.

2. And right at the start of this wonderful adventure thru Life with Jesus, the follower of Christ realizes that he must be made fit to be a worker with Go God in ~~his~~ gaining his goal.

The new adventurer with Jesus must first conquer himself before he can help God conquer others. His own inner world is full of ignorance and prejudice, full of waywardness, passion and sin- his first great task is to bring himself into captivity to the obedience of Christ! "He must make himself wholesome, intelligent, reverent, unselfish and brotherly."

Ah, but he knows himself well enough to know that this is is about impossible to do all by himself- he has not the power to do it- he cannot save himself! But his companion and guide can help him.

1. Jesus teaches him tp pray. Naturally And then he discove s that prayer puts him in real contact with God who then gives him the necessary help and strength.

The experience a "Y" Secty had with a young man in the Bible class who claimed that his pray ing never helped him any and that he hardly believed in a God anymore.

Try for a week to live up to the Golden Rule. Failed miserably. Then urged him to pray to Godabout it.

" Now I know there is a God- every morning and every evening I have talked the matter over with God and some power- I do not know what it is- has helped me succeed where before I I had miserably failed." Read "Prayer"

2. Getting such help from God this traveler with Jesus finds himself conquering all kinds of wrong tendencies within himself and doing all kinds of right things to others.

He gives up a grudge that he has long held against one who use to be his true friend. He takes up some duties thath he has long since neglected. He becomes interewted in helping others and making their jourjey thru live radient with the sunshine of God's love. He soon finds himself a new creature who is fit to help God build his kingdom of men true and good, faithful and kind.

The Mother's three s ons who were found fit.

Prayer - Read

"In the castle of my soul
Is a little postern gate,
Whereat, when I enter,
I am in the presence of God.
In a moment, in the turning of a thot,
I am where God is.
This is a fact."

"When I enter into God,
All life has a meaning.
Without asking, I know;
My desires are even now fulfilled,
My fever is gone
In the great quiet of God.
My troubles are but pebbles on the road,
My joys are like the everlasting hills.
So it is when I step thru the gate of prayer
From time into eternity.
When I am in the consciousness of God,
My fellow-men are not far off and forgotten,
But close and strangely dear.
Those whom I love have a mystic value.
They shine as if a light were glowing within them."

"So it is when my soul steps thru the postern gate
Into the presence of God.
Big things become small, and small things become great
The near becomes far, and the future is near.
The lowly and despised is shot thru with glory."